Dear Jim,

11/16/74

The attached copy of my today's letter to Bud is confidential. I told you that you would need background. This is only part of it. Unfortunately, I find having to write him like this quite painful because of the wretchedness of some of what is not in it that inevitably comes to mind, because it is a reminder of the countless weeks of wasted time and opportunities missed and because I really shudder when I think of this kind of mixed playboyism (no insult to the publication!) and incompetence and laziness can mean in a trial.

This letter can mean the final rupture between Bud and me. The only reason it hasn't happened until now is that I have taken endlessly and repeatedly what I can't any longer tolerate and the case can't either.

In addition he is cowardly. The combination of sick ego and cowardice is not for a case like this one!

If there had been any available way of paying the costs of the case other than through the part Bud paid, the largest part in cash, I'd not have talked Jimmy out of it when he fired Bud.

If it happens again I won't.

Bud's fucking up began with the first in-court effort he made. He was then so without confidence in what he could do and so ignorant of the actualities of the case that although I am not a lawyer he asked me to draft the legal approach. I can still produce it. You will find that typically unilaterally, without discussion, he abandoned what was then and remains one of the significant legal elements. It was so bad that even the judge who was opposed to us felt that in order to maintain his own position he had to order another hearing with that question included. And the night before that argument was made I had to give it to Livingston, who was even less prepared than Bud who somehow found him of all Memphis lawyers.

This may or may not overcome his opposition to the interview. There is a good likelihood that it will make him more determined to oppose it because he has a sick compulsion to persist in error that he finds other than error in his secret thoughts. He thus finds everyone else at fault, never himself. This is what drives him to the most insane public statements whenever there is a mike or a camera and I'm not close by.

I'll illustrate this by a true story. Jimmy had just fired him and not without cause. Jim and I rushed to Bud's office to find him making the most stupid, even crazy statements to those who phoned him. Fortunately by the time we got there no major media. Luckily he had taken no calls from them. So, I got his partner Bill in and with the three listening asked Bud to write out a statement he would read whenever he was called. I dictated it, he wrote it down, he read it back, and unless there was a minor change of word here or there, it was agreed to by the four of us as what he should say and all that he should say. While we were with him, he read it faithfully and declined to add a word. But the minute we left he returned to the insanity. Once Jim caught him at it when we returned to his office. Once when I did he immediately returned to this written statement. That statement is all that made is possible for Jimmy to say he really hadn't fired Bud after all, that he had been misunderstood.

But even after it happened and even after I had begun to save Bud, this dybbuk within him took control.

My days as exorcist are over.

If Bud rejects the interview I'll then think through what I'll do.

Meaning also what I might decide not to do.

Jim can tell you that from the time Bud wasted four months for me after I did the interviews for the habeas corpus affidavits, and that was several years ago, I have been wishing I could get out of this. I feel I can't just quit and I feel I also am no longer up to preventing all Bud's craziness or living with his abuse. There are many considerable stresses in my life without these and I am tiring. Unless I can ease these external pressures it will become impossible for me.

Bud's treatment of Jim has been only a little less miserable.

So, we'll have to wait and see what eventuates. I'll let you know.

Sincerely,